((ग) पिछले तीन वर्षो के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली में जारी किए गए एल पी कनेक्शनों की संख्या का ब्यौरा निम्नवत् है:-

(आंकड़े लाख में)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
उत्तर प्रदेश	4.30	3.88	5.04
दिल्ली	0.97	0.74	2.10

(घ) सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की तेल कंपनियों के माध्यम से वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए 25 लाख नए कनेक्शनों और 25 लाख डी बी सी जारी किए जाने का अनुमोदन कर दिया है । उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए 1996-98 की अनुमोदित एल पी जी विपणन योजना में 351 नई एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप शामिल की गई है । दिल्ली के लिए एल पी जी विपणन योजना 1996-98 में कोई नई एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप शामिल नहीं की गई है । विज्ञापन की तारीख से किसी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप को चालू करने के लिए सामान्यत: लगभग 1-2 वर्ष लग जाते हैं।

Price System for Petroleum Products

420. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering revision of the scheme to dismantle the administered price system for petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the main features of the revised scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LNG Terminal at Cochin

421. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed an organisation named 'Petronet' to start the LNG Terminal at Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what arc the reasons for the undue delay in establishing the project;

(d) what are the steps taken by the Government to expedite the project; and

(e) whether the Petronet will complete the project without the financial support from NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Government have constituted Petronet LNG Ltd. with the Oil Public Sector Undertakings, GAIL, IOCL, ONGCL and BPCL, currently holding among themselves 50% of the equity. It is proposed to associate other parties also with the project including financing institutions, and possibly State Government Corporations and the NTPC.

Preliminary activities in respect of its projects have been commenced by Petronet LNG Ltd. and it is expected that financial closure on these projects would be achieved during 1999. Thereafter, the projects are expected to be realised within a period of 36 to 42 months.

Import of Furnace and Crude Oil by Private Refineries

422. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private refineries can now import furnace oil and crude oil for their own use only;